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Docket No. 12969-1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

5 Applicant: Bitler et al

Serial No.: 09/810,920

Filing Date: March 16, 2001

Title: Polymeric Thickeners for Oil-containing Compositions

Group Art Unit: 1714

Examiner: Peter Szekely

10 Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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REPLY

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

20 This paper is a reply to the Office Action mailed October 10, 2003, which is a final rejection. Please extend the term for reply by two months, i.e. to March 10, 2004. A check for \$210.00 is attached to pay for this extension (Applicant is a small entity).

25 On December 10, 2003, Applicants filed a Petition to Withdraw the Finality of the Office Action. No decision has been issued on that Petition. A conditional Notice of Appeal is attached. The Notice of Appeal is conditional in the sense that it is to be effective only if the finality of the Office Action is maintained.

EXPRESS MAIL CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service of the United States Postal Service on the date indicated below and is addressed to Mail Stop AFAF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Express Mail mailing label No. ER 272210070 US Date of Deposit March 4, 2004

Typed name of person signing this certificate: T. H. P. Richardson Signature

Reexamination, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the Amendments and Remarks below, and the accompanying Declaration. It is submitted that the accompanying declaration should be admitted, even if the finality of the office action is maintained, since most of the declaration does no more than affirm facts previously set out as part of the arguments in support of patentability, and insofar as it goes further than that, merely provides a technical explanation for the benefit of the Examiner. It is submitted that the amendments requested below should be entered, even if the finality of the office action is maintained, for the reasons set out below in connection with those amendments.

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Amendments to the specification begin on page 3 of this Reply.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 4 of this Reply

15 Remarks/arguments begin on page 19 of this Reply.